

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
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AF/W:DKILLION
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R 221216Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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BRUSSELS PASS FAA AEU-200

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, MR, AFSP

SUBJECT: US OFFICIAL TRAVEL ON AIR MAURITANIA

REF: (A) NOUAKCHOTT 129 AND PREVIOUS; (B)
DAKAR 1150; (C) NOUAKCHOTT 895

1. DEPARTMENT IS PREPARED TO TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING TO
ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS AND FEDERAL AGENCIES
WHICH SPONSOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL:

"BECAUSE OF DOCUMENTED IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MAINTENANCE
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OF AIR MAURITANIA'S AIRCRAFT WHICH HAVE BEEN ATTESTED TO
BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
(FAA); AND BECAUSE OF THE FAA'S SATISFACTION THAT AIR
MAURITANIA'S PILOTS POSSESS AIRMEN CERTIFICATES WHICH
DENOTE A SUFFICIENT LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND COMPETENCE
TO ENSURE SAFE PILOT PRACTICES; AND BECAUSE US EMBASSY
OFFICIALS IN NOUKCHOTT ARE SATISFIED THAT UNSAFE PRACTICES

PERTAINING TO CARGO LOADING AND AIRCRAFT RECONFIGURATION
ARE NO LONGER COMMON, THE DEPARTMENT IS RECINDING ITS
3 AUGUST 1976 NOTICE WHICH WARNED ALL OFFICIAL TRAVELERS
TO AVOID USE OF AIR MAURITANIA.

THIS ACTION IS NEITHER AN ENDORSEMENT OF AIR MAURITANIA
NOR SHOULD IT BE VIEWED AS AN ASSURANCE THAT AIR MAURITANIA
WILL AT ALL TIMES EVIDENCE CORRECT PASSENGER AND CARGO
HANDLING, FLYING AND MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES IN THE
FUTURE.

THE INTENT OF THIS ACTION IS TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE
INDISPUTABLY UNSOUND AIR MAURITANIA PRACTICES PREVIOUSLY
REPORTED HAVE BEEN REDRESSED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
STATE.

THEREFORE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING TRAVEL REGULATIONS
("FLY AMERICA ACT"), OFFICIAL TRAVELERS MAY EXERCISE
THEIR DISCRETION IN SELECTING AIR MAURITANIA FOR TRAVEL."

2. BEFORE ABOVE ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE, REQUEST EMB
NOUAKCHOTT AND FAA REP NEWELL FORWARD CONCURRENCE TO
DEPARTMENT. CHRISTOPHER

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